

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are in the application.

The Examiner will note that, as a result of the foregoing Amendment, appropriate headings have been included in the specification.

Concerning the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner will note that the corrections required in the Office Action have been made.

With respect to claim 17, Applicant respectfully points out that "the medium" is recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 to 8, 11, 12 and 17 to 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suga et al, are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include a detailed recitation concerning the manner of operation of the rim heightening and the spring component placed in the recess of the seat component.

The changes to claim 1 are clearly supported by the drawing as originally filed and, therefore, no new matter has been added.

The reference to Suga et al, relied on by the Examiner, describes a valve group, for example, in Fig. 5, whose seat component is manufactured of two parts of a floor plate and a ring placed on the floor plate.

In accordance with the reference, the spring component is enclosed between the floor plate and the ring. In accordance with the present invention as claimed, on the other hand, the micropump has a spring component which is placed in the recess of the seat component while being centered by the rim heightening.

Consequently, the spring component is connected in the annular rim area not only to the floor plate, but to the floor plate as well as to the ring.

The object of the present invention is primarily to decrease the difficulties and costs of manufacturing the micropump, particularly the valve modules thereof.

In accordance with the present invention as claimed, this object is met by making it possible to manufacture the seat component integrally with low manufacturing tolerances, for example, by injection molding. The seat component can be easily connected to the spring component by simply inserting the spring component in the cup-shaped seat component through the opening of the cup. Subsequently, the spring component is connected to the floor of the cup, particularly by welding, in an annular rim area. This results automatically in a centering by the cup wall of the very accurately manufactured seat component. This means that it is possible with few difficulties to manufacture the total group, i.e., the valve module, with low manufacturing valve tolerances.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 15, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 15, 2008.

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Date: August 15, 2008